

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 138

Introduced by Assembly Member Achadjian
(Coauthor: Senator Monning)

April 21, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 138—Relative to Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 138, as introduced, Achadjian. Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.
This measure would proclaim May 19, 2014, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Liver cancer and liver disease related to hepatitis
2 B and C are two of the leading killers in California; and
3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most prevalent bloodborne
4 disease in the United States and in California; and
5 WHEREAS, Early detection of hepatitis B or C infection
6 promotes effective management or treatment of these infections,
7 preventing disability, loss of productivity and income, and allowing
8 people to live full, satisfying, and productive lives; and
9 WHEREAS, Undetected and untreated hepatitis B or C infection
10 can lead to disability or death; and
11 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 750,000 Californians
12 with chronic hepatitis C infection do not know they are infected,
13 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,
14 or liver failure; and

1 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 350,000 California
2 residents with hepatitis B infection do not know they are infected,
3 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,
4 or liver failure; and

5 WHEREAS, Untreated hepatitis B and C are the leading causes
6 of liver failure requiring liver transplant; and

7 WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention released updated guidelines calling for everyone born
9 between 1945 and 1965 to receive a one-time hepatitis C test,
10 which would save over 100,000 lives; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2013, the United States Preventive Services
12 Task Force (USPSTF) issued a Grade B rating for screening for
13 hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in persons at high risk for
14 infection and adults born between 1945 and 1965; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2009, the USPSTF issued a Grade A rating for
16 screening pregnant women for the hepatitis B virus (HBV) during
17 their first prenatal visit; and

18 WHEREAS, There is a vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis
19 B, the first proven, low-cost vaccination against any form of cancer
20 made available to Americans; and

21 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B and hepatitis C-related hospitalization
22 charges totaled \$2.3 billion in 2010 in California, mostly paid for
23 by tax-supported public health insurers; and

24 WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and
25 accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate
26 treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral
27 infection to individuals and to our community, financially, as well
28 as physically and emotionally; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
31 hereby proclaims May 19, 2014, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness
32 Day; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
34 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.